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Many proponents of Joint Committee legislation have referred to the existence of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy as an example of the type of Committee which they propose. While it is true that the JCAE has maintained a high security standard among its members and staff, the operation of an intelligence system and the conduct of clandestine activities, is far from the subject matter of the JCAE (that is acting as a watchdog over the conduct of what amounts, in large measure, to the operation of a large business). The JCAE prides itself in its "watchdog" role over the Atomic Energy Commission. The gathering of intelligence and the conduct of clandestine activities with a "watchdog" looking over your shoulder (with what amounts to a veto power) is quite a different thing.

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